

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 414  
By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Cherica Spencer for her  
bravery and beating the odds.

WHEREAS, the first thing you see when you look at Cherica Spencer of Memphis is the  
typical face of a sixteen-year-old teenage girl, with a smile that betrays an unquenchable spirit  
and an obvious sense of fun; and

WHEREAS, Cherica knew her sight was slowly disappearing and that things were  
getting blurry, she continued her activities and never slowed down as blindness overtook her 10  
years ago; and

WHEREAS, she underwent surgery to remove a tumor near her optic nerve; and

WHEREAS, even as familiar objects and people turned to shadows, Cherica proceeded  
with her school work, drawing, and other childhood activities she had always known; and

WHEREAS, as the outside world slowly darkened, she opened herself to a bright, inner  
world lit by her own determination; and

WHEREAS, in elementary school a teacher came to help her learn the Braille alphabet.  
According to Cherica, "It was a snap:"; and

WHEREAS, now, a sophomore honor student at Central High School, and almost totally  
blind, Cherica enjoys riding her bicycle, drawing, and playing her guitar, flute and drum; and

WHEREAS, this bright and thoughtful young lady will be honored for having overcome  
major obstacles to succeed where others might have given up; and

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WHEREAS, the annual Beat The Odds program, a local project that grew out of the Children's Defense Fund, is administered through an advisory board to project R.A.P. (Responsible Adolescent Parenting) in the Tennessee Department of Children's Services; and

WHEREAS, her mother, Diane Spencer, has been very supportive of Cherica; and

WHEREAS, Cherica won a "best positive achiever" award from radio station WLOK in April and was on the principal's honor roll with a 4.0 average; beating the odds was not something she stopped to think about; and

WHEREAS, Cherica and her family are deserving of considerable praise for the fine example they have set; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Cherica Spencer and her family for her bravery and beating the odds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.